(b) whether there is any move to change the criteria for defining poverty line during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) how many people have crossed the poverty line, with rural-urban break up, at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) There has been no change in the criteria for defining poverty line during the last ten years.

(b) Planning Commission has constituted an 'Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' to review the methodology of poverty estimation. The Group is yet to finalise its recommendations in this regard.

(c) The number of people below poverty line for the years 1983-84 and 1987-88 for which estimates have been made are given below:

Number of Persons below Poverty Line (*in lakhs*)

	Rural	Urban	Combined
1983-84	2215.00	495·00	2710·00
1987-88	1918.22	405 82	2324·04

Privatisation of sick Public Sector Undertakings

3074. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 97 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August 1990 and state:

(a) what are the details of sick public sector undertakings; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal for privatisation of Sick Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) The details of central public sector enterprises which sustained net loss during 1988-89 and 1987-88 are given in the Statement 7B at pages from 187 to 189 of Volume-1 of Public Enterprises Survey 1988-89 placed on the Table of the House on 15th March, 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

Representations against Atomic Power Stations by Scientists/Environmental Groups

3075. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government give consideration to the representations against Atomic Power Stations from Scientists and Environmental groups in the country;

(b) if, so, the details of the recent controversy in Kerala between a scientist and AEC in this regard;

(c) what were the objections raised by the scientist against establishing an atomic power station;

(d) what is the view of AEC in this matter;

(e) whether AEC has ever agreed with any objections or opinions from those outside the Government and the Atomic Energy Establishment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There have been no representation to the Atomic Energy Commission from groups of scientists and environmentalists regarding the desirability or otherwise of atomic power stations in Kerala. The matter referred to involved the Kerala Government in relation to views expressed publicly by a scientist of that Govt.

(e) and (f) Objections and opinions of those outside the Govt. and the Atomic Energy Establishment are given due consideration in the context of the nuclear energy programme. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board takes note of these inputs and views and uses outside experts in their discussions and deliberations in order to evolve the right consensus.

Collaborations for Foreign Technology

3076. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of collaborations for foreign technology have declined during the last four years but the payments to foreign collaborators have increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the net result of technology import on units which are self-reliant in terms of design, capability and production technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) The number of collaborations approved in the year 1989 is lower than that in any of the last 4 years. However, no uniform pattern has emerged in the period 1986-1989 on the number of foreign collaborations and lumpsum payments approved. The changes are primarily transient in nature, attributable to factors such as: foreign investments; type of technology transfer transaction; degree of sophisticated technology; need for associated import of capital goods; inflation and changes in exchange rates.

(c) The effect of technology import on units which are self-reliant in terms of design capability and production technology will generally lead to: faster absorption of technology; effective import substitution of raw materials and components; catalyzing of new product development and possible improvements to the technology imported.

Technology import could also result in a situation where products based on indigenous technology by self-reliant units could be in competition with those made with imported technology. Often this may adversely affect the development of indigenous technology, due to factors making the competition unfair.

Taking over of Junior Colleges running Vocational Courses by Government

3077. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the junior college running vocational courses of two years duration would be taken over by Government to introduce more vocational courses to improve employment opportunities in the rural and semi-urban areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA). (a) and (b) There is no proposal for taking over by the Central Government of Junior Colleges running vocational course.